Vol. III. Numb. 23.

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Information against the Observator. *More Accounts of Arch-Bishop* Laud. *Remarks thereon.*

From **Wednesday** June the 7th, to **Saturday** June the 10th, 1704.

Country-m. MAster, according to your Order, I call'd upon Mr. *Councellor*, the *Lawyer*, and have brought you, from Him, the Copy of the *Deformation* against you.

Obs. The *Information* thou mean'st.

Country-m. It may be so; but I am sure I never saw such Deform'd Writing in all my Life. I can't Read one Word of it. God help us poor Country Folk, when we are Inform'd against in such Writing and such Language.

Obs. This is a swinging *Information*, of twenty eighth Sheets of Paper.

Country-m. Aye, and the *Perkinites* at *London* swear they'll Swinge you; they are putting themselves foremost to be on your Jury.

Obs. Let 'em go on with their Show. But I tell thee I am no more the Person mentioned in this *Information*, than thou art the Man in the Moon.

Country-m. Why did they then Read it to you in Court?

Obs. When a Man is brought into Court, you know he can't help hearing his Charge; but you saw I did not Plead to it.

Country-m. Bless me! What is the meaning of this? You say you are not the Man mention'd in this *Information*.

Obs. I am not the Man indeed. This *Information* is brought against one *John Tutchin* of the City of *London*, *LABOURER*. Now I never did one Days Labour in all my Life. I was Born and Bred a Gentleman, and perhaps have forgotten more Learning, than some of my Enemies were ever capable of rememb'ring: And should I have call'd some sort of People in Office, tho of the same Quality with my self, *Labourer*, it might, perhaps, have been esteemed a Libel, and have been pop't into the *Information*.

Country-m. Ah, Master *Observator*, this won't serve your Jury, you are the Man here meant; and I can prove you to be a *Labourer*. You have Labour'd hard to justifie Her Majesties Right and Title to the Imperial Crowns of these Kingdoms, against the Writings of *Perkinites* and *Non-jurors*. You have Labour'd hard to save the Navy of *England* from Destruction, and the Sailors of that Navy from being Poison'd with bad Provisions: You have Labour'd hard to open the Eyes of the People, and to show them their Danger: You have Laboured hard in the Discovery of many Designs against our dear Country, and therefore the Enemies of our common Peace and Wellfare, Labour hard to Ruin you.

Obs. The next time we meet, I shall discourse the Point farther, and show you the Charge against me in this *Information*; and let Mankind Judge of the Cause: But, I can assure you, I don't yet find that I am charg'd with any Reflections on Her Majesties Person and Government, unless you make Her Officers to be the Government, which no Wise Man will allow. 'Tis true, here is a whole Troop of *Innendo's* Muster'd against me, which Murder'd many an Honest Man in former Reigns, and which I thought had been Disbanded upon the Revolution; but since they appear in Battel Array against me, with my *Sword of Truth* in one Hand, and my *Target* of *English Law* in the other, I'll either Fight my way thro' or Die upon the Spot.

Country-m. Ah, but Master, your Prosecutors are to Big, they have the Nations Money to carry on the Suite, against the Tatter'd Fortune of one that spent his *All* in the Service of his Country.

Obs. That's true, but to carry on this Cause, in Defence of my own Innocency, and the Rights of the Kingdom, I'll Sell those few Books I have, those Jewels that I have been above this Twenty Years in Collecting. I'll Pawn my Wife and Children to Defend the glorious Cause of Truth.

Country-m. You may do so if you will. But, *Master have a Care of thy self*, you have Sail'd a long time on a Tempestuous Sea, 'tis time to put into Harbour: Age will come upon you, and I know no reason why you should expose your self for an Ungrateful People; let others relieve you and stand Centry as you have done in Storms of all sorts.

Obs. This shall be done when God thinks fit; his time is the best time; and when he shall call Numbers of Men to his Service, he'll give 'em a Spirit for the Work.

Country-m. Your Friends at *London* tell me, that you have set Potent Enemies against you, by raking in the Ashes of the *Popish High-Priest Laud*; and the *Perkinites* say, you are a meer Rogue to meddle with the Dead.

Obs. I am sure they are meer Rogues that brought him on the Stage, as a *Martyr* of the *Church* of *England*, who show him as a Saint, and make him an Apostle, and recommend his Doctrines as Just and True; and that Revile and Scandalize our present Bishops, who, next a Protestant Queen, are the chief Blessings of this Age. I never yet entered on any Subject, but in Opposition to the Enemies of our Peace, who wait for our Ruin and seek our Destruction: And what I have Written of *Laud*, is matter of *Truth* and *Fact*, and stands upon Record.

Country-m. But they say, he was no *Papist*, nor a Friend to *Papists*, but a true *Church-man*.

Obs. He appears to me to be no better than a *Papist*, by the Charge against him, and the Proofs upon that Chage.

At the Trial of *Laud*, it did plainly appear, that while he was Resident in the University of *Oxford*, he was generally reputed to be *Popishly* affected, and a *Papist* in Heart; and reported to be such a one by the *Popish* Party at *Rome*, and else-where beyond the Seas.

Doctor *Featly* deposed as much, *Viva Voce*, at the Bar, and farther deposed that he the said Doctor *Featly*, meeting a *Pupil* of the said *Lauds* at *Paris*, which *Pupil* had turned *Papist*, and told him, the said Doctor *Featly*, *That Doctor* Laud, *his Tutor, was against the* Popes Supremacy, *but did maintain many* Catholick *Points of their Religion.*

Sir *Nathaniel Brent*, his own *Vicar General*, deposed at the Bar, *That this Arch-Bishop, while he continued in* Oxford, *was there generally reputed to be* Popish;

Popish. And farther, that when he did his Exercise for Batchelour of Divinity, he took his Supposition almost *Verbatim* out of *Bellarmine*; and most Familiarly conversed with those in the University, who were most addicted to *Popery*, and reputed *Papists*.

On *Easterday* 1615, at St. *Peters* in *Oxford*, Doctor *Abbot* made a Sermon, wherein he uttered many things, which were taken by all that heard him to be level'd at *Laud*, viz. *That he was a* Papist *indeed, or at least wise, partly* Popish *and partly* English, *a Mongrel, and a Compound of a* Papist *and* Protestant; *one ready upon all Occasions to step over to the* Papists; *a* Papist *in the Doctrine of Free-will, Justification by Works, Inherent Righteousness, Concupiscence no Sin after Baptism, certainty of Salvation, and the Doctrine of the Sacrament: And that the* Papists *beyond the Sea could say, that he was* wholy Theirs, *and the Recusants at home make their* Brags *of him.* This was the Opinion of Dr. *Abbot* and the University, concerning our *High-Flyers* Saint and Martyr.

And that *Laud* took this Sermon of Dr. *Abbot*'s to himself, plainly appears from the Notes thereon found in *Laud*'s Study, enclosed in a Letter to the Bishop of *Lincoln*, and Endorsed with his own Hand thus, *The Copy of a Letter I sent to the Lord Bishop of* Lincoln, *concerning a Sermon in which Dr.* Abbot *had wrong'd me in the University.* In the Letter he complains in these Words. *I came time enough to be at the Rehersal of this Sermon, upon much perswasion I went to Church, where I was fain to sit Patiently, and hear my self Abused almost an hour together, yet I was Pointed at as I sate; for this present Abuse I would have taken no Notice of it, but that the whole University applies it to me.*

Country-m. Well, but Master *Observator*, I find that this *Laud* was Stigmatiz'd as a *Papist*, and Represented as such, and to be a *Papist*, before he was made Arch-Bishop. How came he then to be made an Arch-Bishop?

Obs. Without doubt he had some Great Persons of his own Kidney about the King, who Misrepresented him to His Majesty, and made the King believe him a good *Protestant*.

Country-m. Ay, ay, here's the Source of Misfortune, the Favourites Recommended, did they? And why were not the Heads of those that Recommended him Chopt off as well as his own? I'll tell you, Poison is an Innocent thing in it self, and will do no Body any harm, if they don't Eat it or Drink it.

Obs. Very true, but what dost mean by this?

Country-m. Mean! Why I mean, that *Knaves* and *Evil Men*, and *Popish Priests*, are Harmless Fellows if they ben't made Officers and Bishops; and 'tis my Country Opinion, that those who do Recommend such Persons to Soveraigns are the greatest Transgressors, and I think ought to be Lopt and Chopt as well as the rest. And this is our *High-Church* Bishop, a Head truly worthy of such a Body.

Obs. This *Laud* had a great Influence over the *Laity* as well as the *Clergy*; he had many great Personages under his Girdle, and he is Arraigned as a Traitor to the *State* as well as the *Church*.

He was raised to his Fortunes by the Duke of *Buckingham*, who kept an intire Friendship with *Laud*, and did little without his Advice; and *Laud* paid all his Kindness in Prayers for him. We find amongst *Laud*'s prayers, a particular prayer for *Buckingham*, in his Expedition to the Isle of *Rhe*, by which *Rochell* and all the *Protestant* Towns in *France* were lost; and after that Duke was Stab'd by *Felton*, and dy'd of his Wounds, we find another Prayer on that Occasion very much Thumb'd and Sullied, and consequently much used by the Arch-Bishop.

Country-m. Oh brave *Laud!* Then he pray'd for the Dead, did he?

Obs. No, he only Lamented the Death of his good Friend, and pray'd to God that they might meet both together in the same Place.

Country-m. Ay, and so they are both together I'll warrant 'em. Let me see, the Bishop was Headed, and the Duke was Stab'd, there went two great Enemies of *England* off the Stage. I have heard you tell abundance of Stories of these *Rechellers*, it seems our *High-Church* Bishop had a Finger in that Pye, and our Duke came short Home by the Hands of *Felton*. Now was not this an Honest Fellow to send the great Enemy of *England* out of the way.

Obs. No, I don't in the least approve of such Actions; God allows no private Person to be the Executioner of his Justice, 'tis not for Man to anticipate his Righteous Judgments; and much better would it have been, if *Buckingham* had been Try'd, Convicted, and Punished, then he would have remained an Example of Justice upon Record to future Ages, as is *Laud*.

England suffer'd much in *Buckingham*, but more in *Laud*; for he Rul'd him and others to the weakening of the Government, and endangering the Constitution.

He was a great Friend to *Strafford*, and a Malicious Enemy to the good Bishop of *Lincoln*.

He was a great Favourite, and Instrument to the *Queen*, and the *Popish Faction*, a Grand Enemy and Persecutor of the Zealous *Protestant* Party under the Name of *Puritans*.

He was a bitter Enemy to Parliaments and their Proceedings, by which means he became Odious to Parliaments and the People, by Reason of his *Tyranny*, *Oppressions*, *Popish Ceremonies*, *Innovations* in *Religion*, and *Unjust Proceedings*.

He was an Arch-Incendiary between His Majesty and People, both in *England* and *Scotland*.

He exalted the Power, Pomp and Authority of Bishops and the Clergy, to advance them above, and to exempt them from all Secular Powers, Jurisdictions, and to Engross the greatest Temporal Offices into their Hands, that so they might Lord it over all Men.

He was exceedingly Devoted to, and extravagantly promoted *Popish Ceremonies*, and greatly favoured and advanced Men that were *Popishly* affected, as *Windebanke*, *Montague*, *Manwaring*, and others.

Country-m. He was a *High-Flying-Episcopal Canary-Bird*. Good God! What a deal of Mischief one Wicked High-Priest can work in a Nation! My Stomach is quite cloy'd with *Popery*, let us wash it down with one Bumper of Protestant *October* Beer in a good Health to my Queen, and our good Protestant Bishops, and have done with the *Laudites* for this time.

Advertisements.

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